cymatic audio

uTool

USER'S MANUAL

Version 1.0.1

October 2015

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1 INTRODUCTION

uTool is a software tool from Cymatic Audio that offers a wide variety of functions for your uTrack24, uTrack-X32, and LP-16 hardware. uTool is available for both OS X and Windows.

1.1 Features

uTool offers two main functions:

- File conversion
- Playlist creation (only for uTrack24 and LP-16)

File conversion for uTrack24 and uTrack-X32 content

The uTrack24/uTrack-X32 (hereby described as simply “uTrack”) records and playbacks multichannel wave files. The uTrack recording file length may often exceed the file size limitations of standard DAW’s (2 GB). To tackle this problem, every time the recording multichannel file reaches the critical size of 2GB, the uTrack will automatically create a new recording multichannel file (“Chunk”) within the song, without losing any samples.

uTool offers file conversion utilities, allowing you to move files between your uTrack and DAW (Digital Audio Workstation) software on your computer.

The uTool software offers two important functions for the uTrack user:

Import uTrack Recordings into the Computer: uTool splits the multichannel wave file chunks in a recording into mono wave files. It joins together the respective mono wave files of the chunks to create individual standard mono wave files for each track.

Export uTrack Song to a drive: uTool joins together a group of mono wav files into multichannel wave file(s), for playback on the uTrack hardware.

Playlist Creation and Editing (uTrack24 and LP-16 only)

uTool allows you to create and organize playlists of Song projects. These playlists, along with the songs can be exported to an external USB storage device. The USB storage device can then be used to play the playlists on your LP-16 or uTrack24.

1.2 Installing uTool

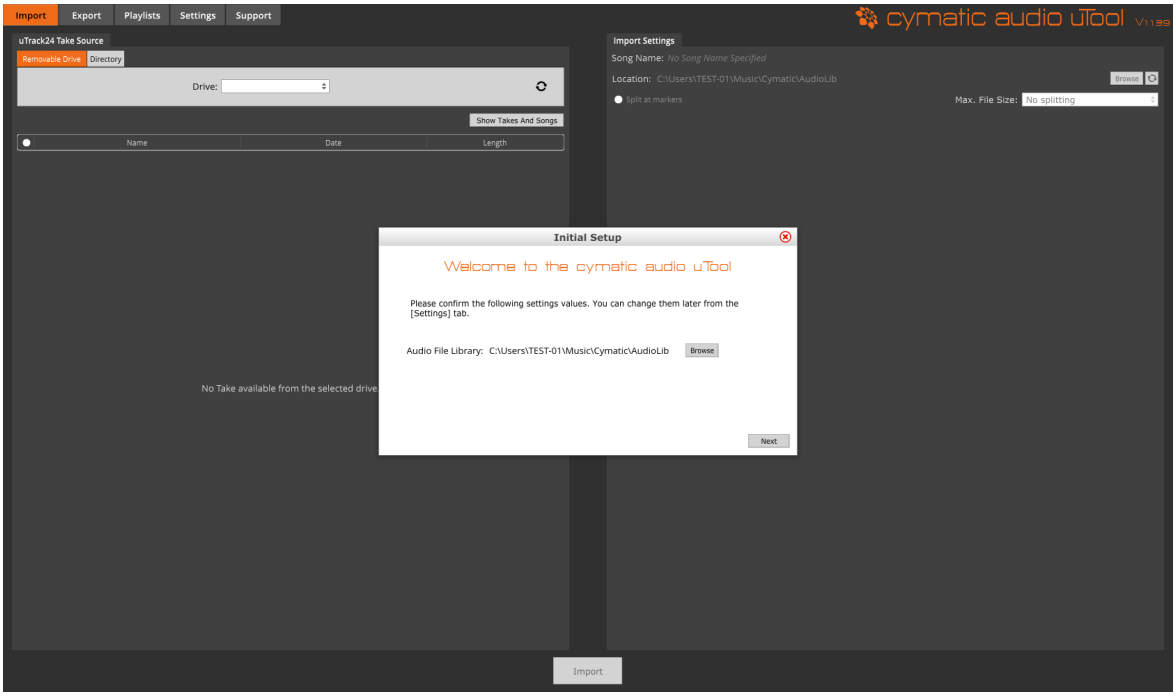
- Visit the Cymatic Audio downloads page at http://www.cymaticaudio.com/downloads
- Download and save the OS X or Windows version of the uTool installer file to your local drive
- Start the setup process by double clicking the downloaded file.

1.3 Launching uTool for the First Time

Initial Setup:

When uTool is launched for the first time, a wizard screen appears, asking confirmation for the following

- Audio File Library (explained in Settings Tab)
- Fixed Hard Drives (explained in Settings Tab)

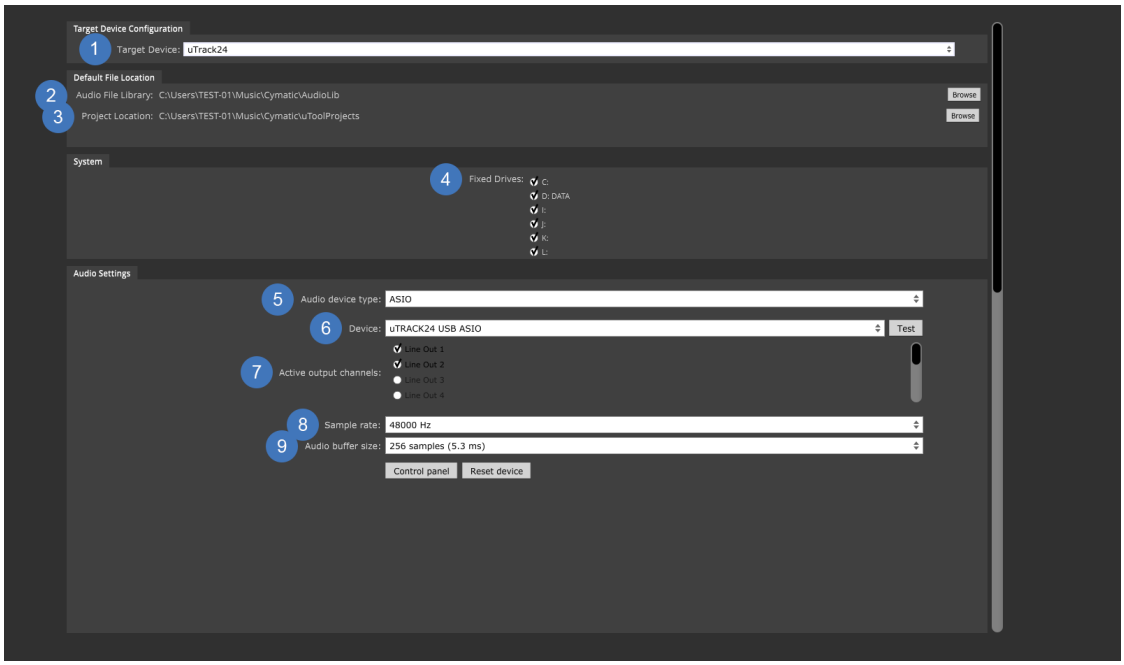


1.4 The uTool User Interface

uTool contains five separate “tabs” at the top of the screen that you can click on to access a different aspect of the user interface.

2 SETTINGS TAB

uTool's settings tab allows you to adjust various global settings for the software, as follows:



1. Target Device

Use this drop-down menu to select the device for which uTool is being used:

- uTrack24
- uTrack-X32
- LP-16

Upon selection, the user interface of uTool will be tailored appropriately for the hardware you have chosen.

2. Audio File Library

When importing recordings for uTrack devices, the song folder with mono wave files is created inside the Audio File Library folder. When creating song projects in uTool, by default the content of this folder is shown for selection.

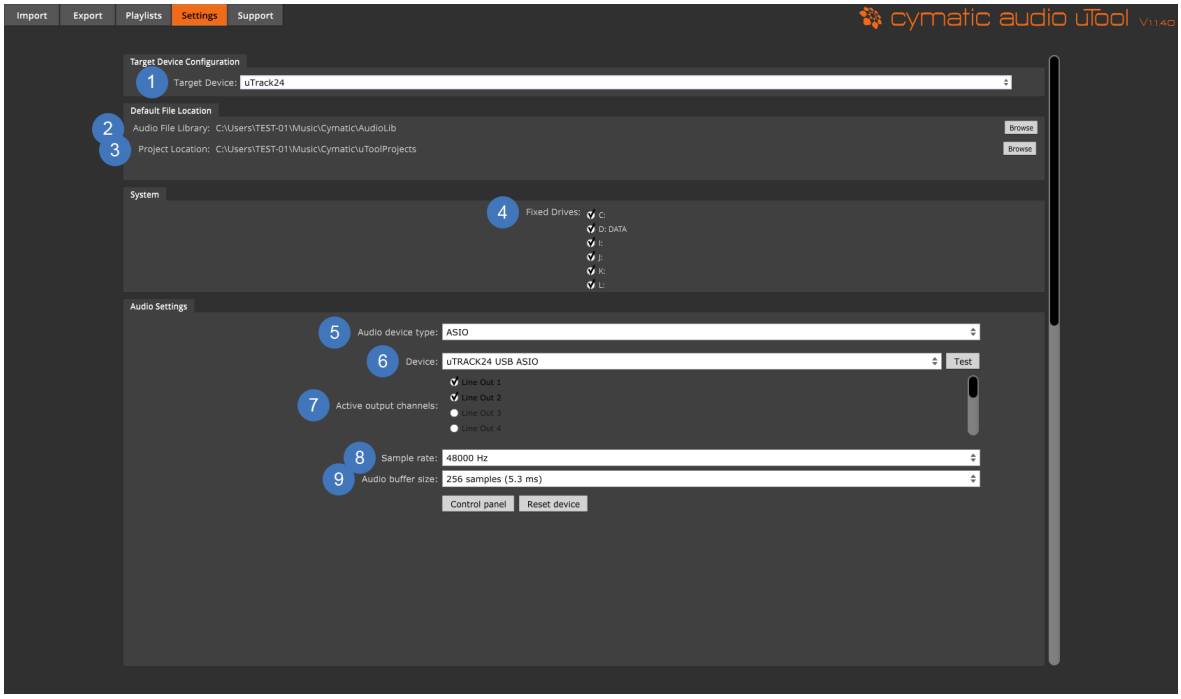
3. Project Location

Specifies the default file path where uTool will save the project files for songs and playlists. The project files (.prj) are used only by uTool. With the project files, the uTool knows the location of source wave files for a given song project.

4. Fixed Drives (Windows Only)

Displays the drives that are marked by uTool as "fixed drives". The drives that are not selected as fixed drives will be visible in the "Removable drive" option of the Import/Export tab.

NOTE: It is recommended to remove any external hard drives before launching uTool for the first time, so that the fixed drive list contains only internal drives. Any new disk that you later connect over USB will be considered as a removable drive.



5. Audio Device Type (Windows Only)

Selects what type of audio output protocol you wish to use with your Windows computer, when using uTool. The three choices include:

- Windows Audio: This selects the standard Windows Audio protocol. Use this setting if you are planning to use the internal sound card on your computer.
- Direct Sound: This selects the alternate “Direct Sound” Audio protocol
- ASIO: This selects the professional “ASIO” audio protocol. Select this choice if you wish to monitor uTool’s audio output using a professional computer audio interface that you are using with its corresponding ASIO driver.

6. Output

Selects to which device the uTool’s stereo audio output is sent to.

7. Active Output Channels

This menu allows you to select a pair of stereo channels on the output device selected.

NOTE: When auditioning a multitrack song project, uTool only sends a stereo downmix to its active output channels.

8. Sample Rate

Selects the sample rate that the selected audio hardware will operate at. The available sample rates will differ based on what sample rates the chosen audio hardware offers.

9. Audio Buffer Size

Sets the buffer size of the selected audio device. Larger buffer sizes will reduce strain on the computer CPU.

3 IMPORT TAB (UTRACK DEVICES ONLY)

The import tab allows you to convert uTrack recordings into mono wave files.

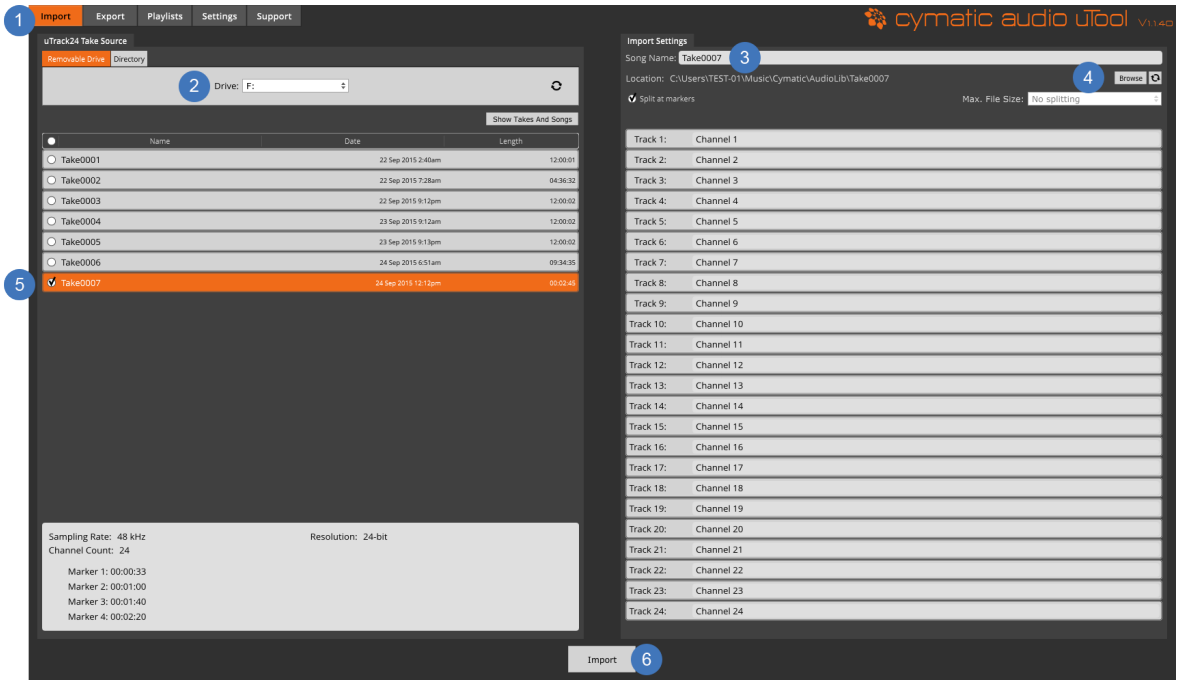
3.1 Importing a uTrack Song File

To do so, follow these initial steps:

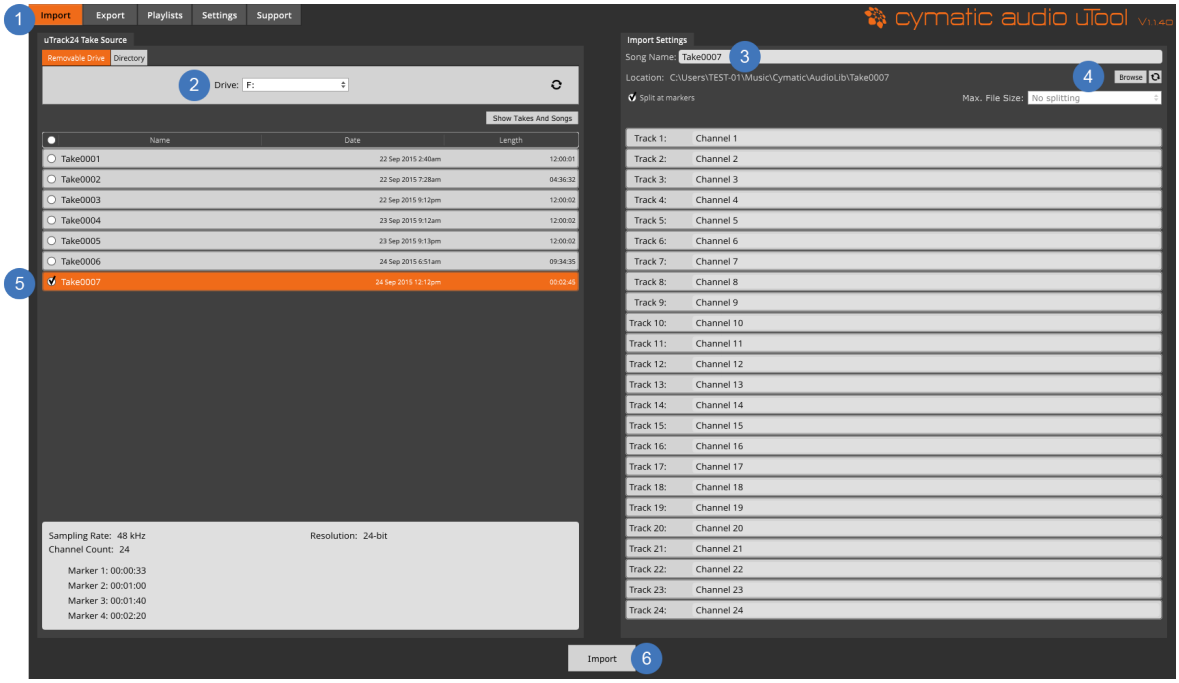
- Record a multi-track recording (known as a “Take”) on your uTrack hardware.
- Remove the USB drive from the uTrack hardware and mount it on the computer running the uTool software.

And then follow these steps in uTool

1. Launch uTool and make sure the proper target device has been chosen in the “Settings” tab. Click on the “Import” tab.
2. Select the attached drive from the drop down menu in “Removable Drive”. uTool scans the selected removable drive and shows the list of Recordings present in the drive. If the recordings have been copied to a local drive the “Directory” option can be used to select the location.



3. If required, you may change the name of the importing song by using the “Song Name” field. The name change is applied to the “Take”, highlighted in orange. Each of the recordings can be assigned a new name by highlighting the “Take” and then changing the name.



4. The location of the imported mono wave files shall be by default (Audio File Library) that is chosen in the “Settings” menu. It can be changed to another location on the fly by using the “Browse” field.

Note that if the selected song name already exists, uTool will display a warning (shown in red) that the filename already exists at that location.

5. Click on the small white circular checkbox button for each Take that needs to be imported. A check symbol is applied on the circle to mark the selections.

6. Click on the “Import” button at the bottom of the screen. uTool converts the selected songs into separate mono wave files in the location specified. Each converted song is a folder with mono wave files in it.

Now that you have a separate group of mono wave files for each song, they can be imported into your DAW software of choice.

The Import tab contains many other useful functions that allow for further customization of the import process.

Show Takes Only

In the import tab, there is an option box “Show Takes Only/Show Takes And Songs”. When “Show Takes Only” is selected, the uTool only shows the recordings with name “Takennnn” where nnnn is the Take number.

Split at Markers

If the recordings have markers, the uTool can split the take at the marker position, thus creating a separate song at each marker.

Information Panel

When you select a take file on the left, an information panel is shown at the bottom of the list, displaying the audio settings and the track list.

Maximum File Size

You can also specify the maximum .wav file size for the mono files; if the imported .wav file exceeds the limit, sub-songs will be created during the conversion process. This function is useful if you know your DAW software does not do well with importing .wav files over a certain size.

Editing Track Names

Clink on any track name to enable editing its name, then simply type in the new name.

Track Playback

It is also possible to play a single track before importing it; This is a useful function when trying to remember what audio a track contains when naming it. Click on any track to see a play symbol which can be used for playback.

4 EXPORT TAB

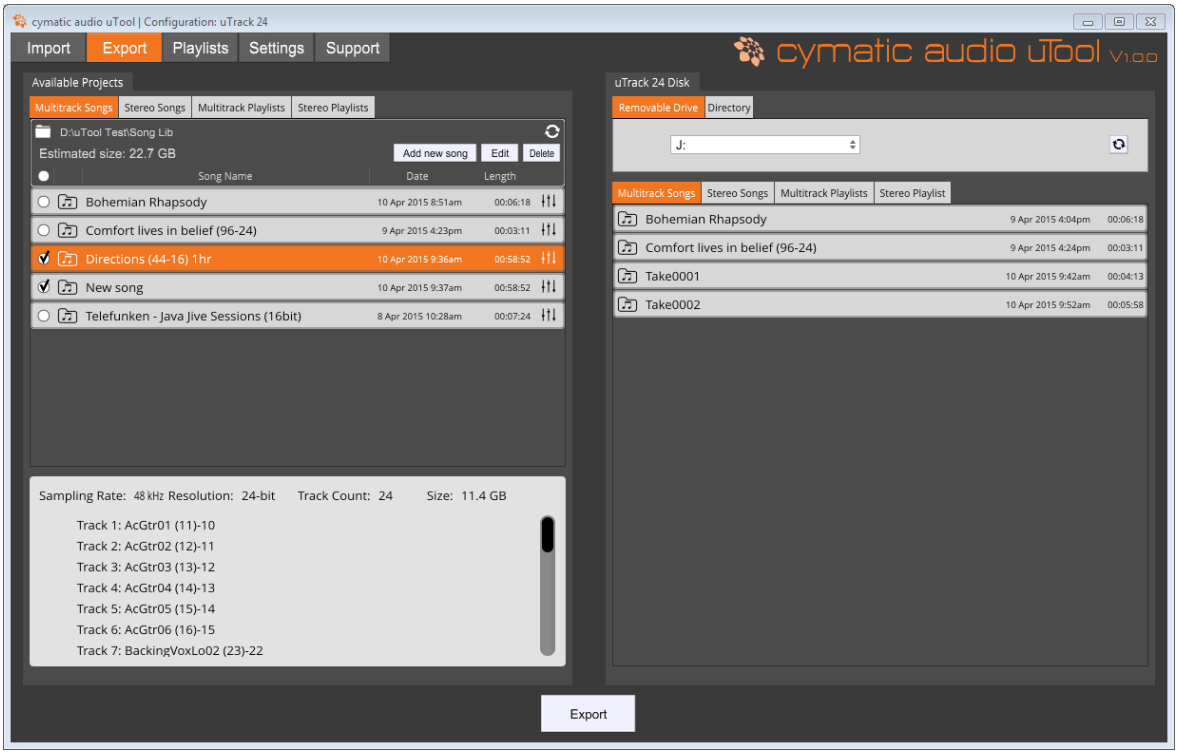
uTool's Export tab allows you to export multi-track songs, stereo songs, as well as playlists(only for LP-16 and uTrack24) to an external drive. It also allows the creation of multitrack and stereo song projects in uTool.

The Export tab is grouped into four separate sub-tabs:

- Multitrack Songs: Displays and allows the creation of multitrack songs.
- Stereo Songs: Displays and allows the addition of stereo songs.
- Multitrack Playlists: Displays the Multitrack Playlists.
- Stereo Playlists: Displays the Stereo Playlists.

4.1 Multitrack Songs

The Multitrack Songs sub-tab displays the existing multitrack song projects. A multi-track song project is a collection of mono wave files. Following options are available in this tab.



Add New Song

To create a new multitrack song project, click the “Add New Song” icon. The screen will then switch to the “New Song” page, described in detail on the next page.

Edit Song

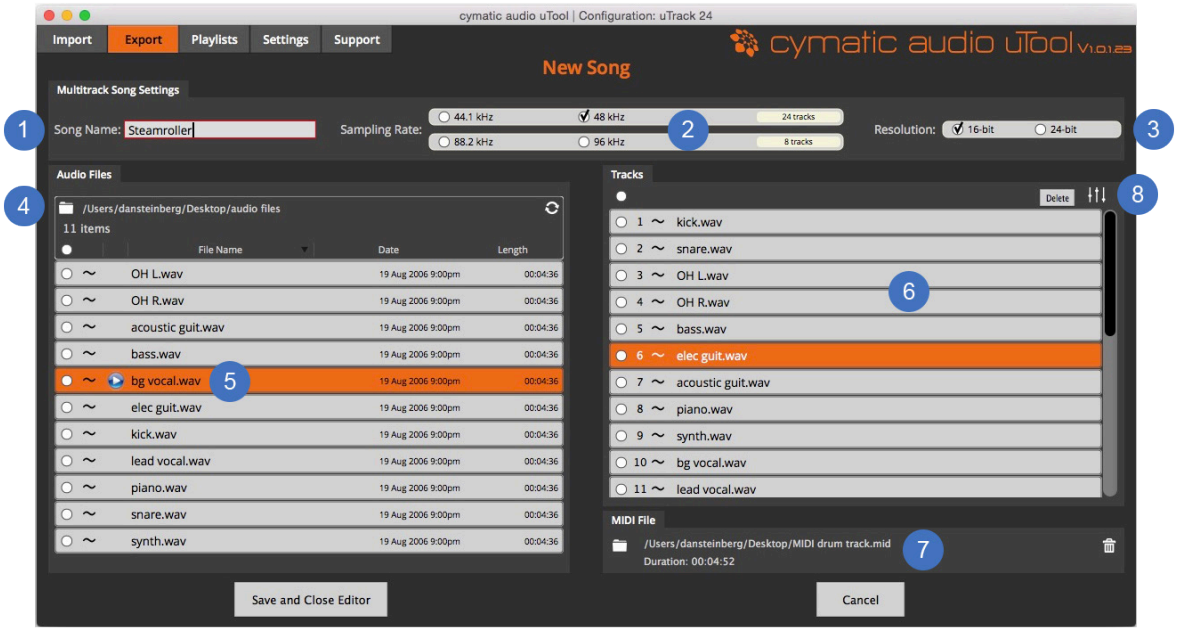
Click on any multi-track song project to select it (highlighted in orange). Click on “edit” button to change the parameters and tracks of the song.

Delete Song

To delete a song project in the list, select its checkbox button to the left of the song title, then click the “delete” button. Multiple song projects can be selected for deletion using the checkbox button.

NOTE: Deleting a song in the multitrack folder only removes the song project from uTool. The actual tracks inside the song project are not deleted.

The “New Song” Page



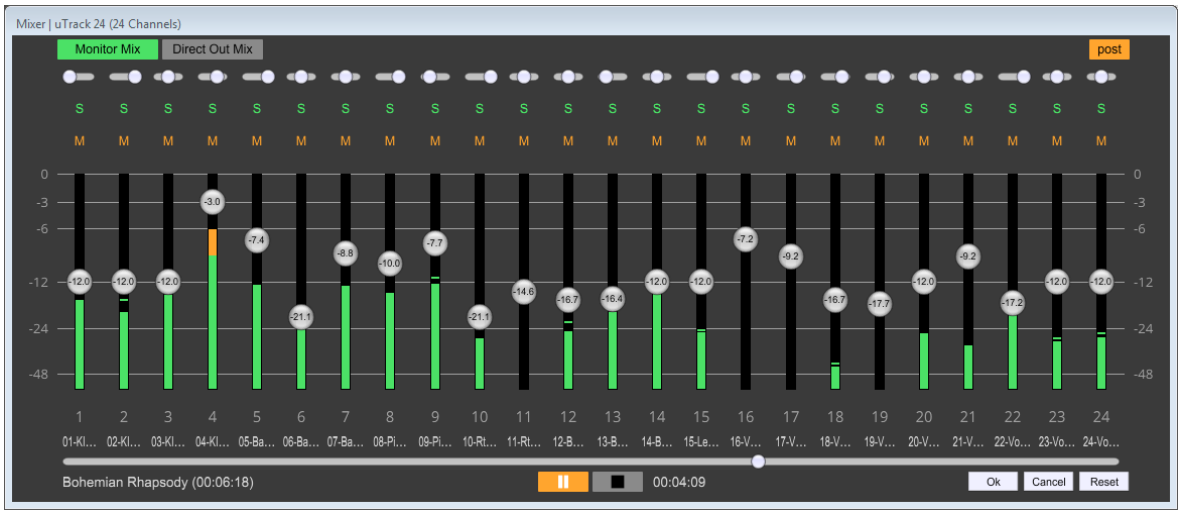
The “New Song” page appears on clicking the “Add New Song” button. It is used to create a song project for the uTool that can be exported to a USB drive. To create a new song:

1. Type a name in the “Song Name” field. This name will be displayed on the playback device.
2. Select one of the available sample rate buttons at the top of the screen; this will determine the sample rate of the final song created.
3. Select the desired bit-depth for the song, either 16-bit or 24-bit.
4. The location of the audio files (mono wave files) is by default the one that is chosen in the settings menu. Files from other location can be chosen by clicking on the folder icon.
5. Audio files present in the selected location will appear on the left side panel. The files can be sorted based on their attributes(Name/Date/Length) by clicking the attributes.

   The source audio files shown in the left hand column can also be auditioned by clicking on the “play” triangle shown to the right of the audio file’s checkbox.
6. The right hand side shows the “Tracks” panel. The number of slots visible in the tracks field will change depending on the target device selected. The numbers in the column represent the audio outputs tracks on the device. Drag the mono wave files from the left panel into a slot on the right panel. Multiple channels can be selected using the checkbox button.
7. MIDI File (only in LP16 and uTrack24): A MIDI file can be included into the song project. When the song is played back, the MIDI file will be played back on the 5-pin MIDI output in sync with the audio tracks.

   Use the folder icon in the “MIDI File” section to load the desired MIDI file into the song project. The loaded MIDI file’s name will be displayed along with its duration.

8. Onboard Audio Mixer



To audition the multitrack song project, uTool provides an onboard software audio mixer. To view the mixer, double-click on the mixer symbol on the right hand side of the song list. A floating window will appear with the mixer controls.

- Monitor Mix: The monitor mixer can be used to adjust the stereo downmix of the multitrack project. In case of uTrack24 click on the button to choose the mixer. In uTrack-X32 and LP-16 this is the default mixer.

  Note: In case of uTrack24 and LP-16, the mixer settings of each song are exported to the USB driv. For the uTrack-X32, the mixer is available only for monitoring on the Computer.

- Direct Out Mix(Only for uTrack24): Click on the button to adjust the level/mute/solo status of each channel as it is sent to its corresponding direct output on the hardware.

- Adjust the fader, pan, mute and solo controls to make adjustments to the song's mix. You can audition the song by clicking on the play icon at the bottom of the screen.

- At any time you can click the "Discard changes" button to return the song's mix to its default state, or double click an individual fader button to change just that fader back to its default value.

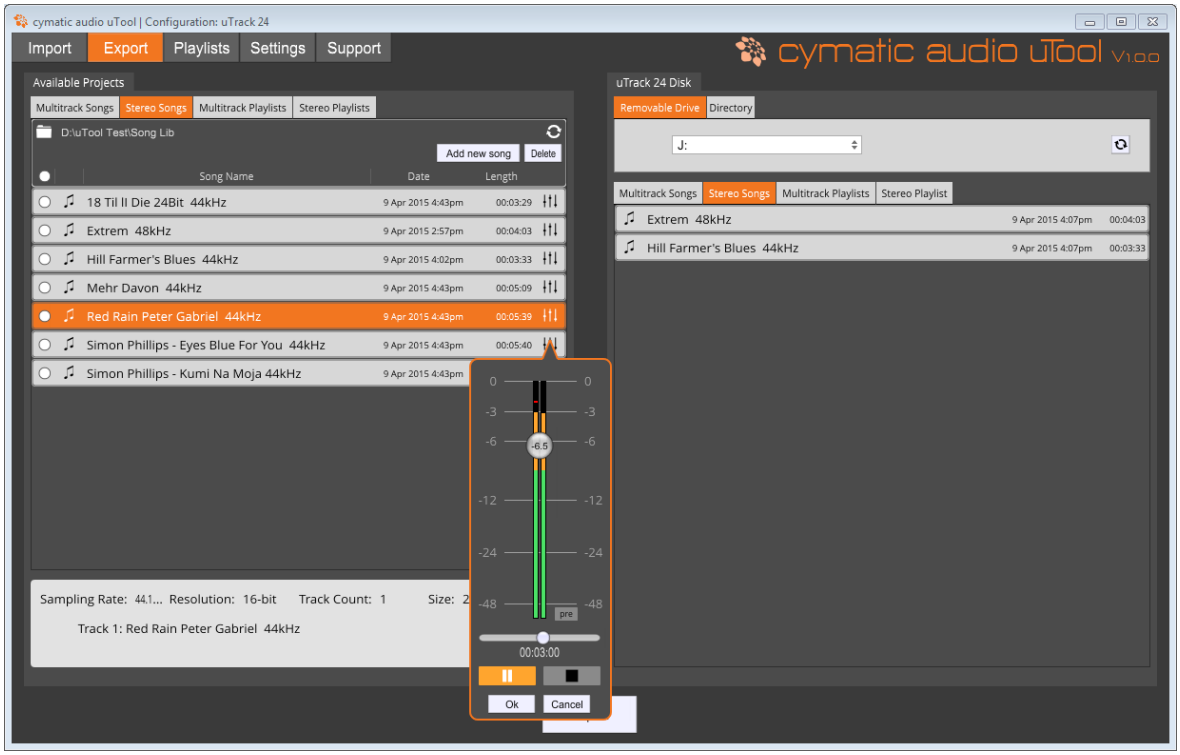
- Click on the pre/post button in the upper right hand corner to set the level meters (which appear inline with the channel faders) to pre-fader or post-fader. When set to pre-fader, the meters are not affected by the channel's fader level. When set to post-fader, the meters are affected by the fader position, and can serve to show you if a fader adjustment you make will create a digital overload.

Saving the New Song project

Once you have prepared the song with proper assignment of files to track numbers, click the "Save and Close Editor" button. If at least one track needs resampling or change of bit depth, you must check the "enable re-sampling & resolution change" button before being able to click on "Save and Close Editor". During export, uTool will automatically convert them to the selected sampling rate and bit-depth. The newly constructed song will now be present on the main page of the "Export" tab.

4.2 Stereo Songs

The Stereo Songs sub-tab works very similarly to the Multitrack Songs sub-tab, with a few differences.



- The “Add new songs” button opens a pane where the stereo files can be selected. Stereo song projects are created when “Save and Close Editor” is clicked.
- Double clicking the mixer icon for a stereo song brings up a popup audition window which can be used to audition the song and set the output level.

NOTE: There are no options for changing the bit-rate or sampling rate of stereo songs. The stereo song projects once created, cannot be edited. “Delete” button can be used to remove the song project.

4.3 Multitrack Playlists (uTrack24/ LP-16 only)

The Multitrack Playlists tab displays any multitrack playlists that have been created in uTool’s ‘Playlists’ tab.

4.4 Stereo Playlists (uTrack24/ LP-16 only)

The Stereo Playlists tab displays any stereo playlists that have been created in uTool’s ‘Playlists’ tab.

4.5 Exporting Projects to an External USB Drive

To export songs and playlist, follow the steps below:

- In the left hand column, select the specific song or playlist you wish to export by clicking on the checkbox button. You can select multiple items using the checkbox.
- Click the “Removable Drive” tab and select the specific device you wish to export to.
- When you have selected a specific removable drive, the column on the right will display a list of all song files already present on the selected drive, as well as a display of available free space.
- If you wish to export the selected song to a non-removable drive, click on the “directory” tab and click on browse to choose a specific location to save your songs.
- Click on the “Export” button at the bottom of the screen. The export process will begin and you will see a progress bar as the operation progresses.

Once you have exported the songs and playlists to a removable USB drive, you can connect the USB drive to your uTrack or LP hardware for playback.

NOTE: If a song or playlist with the same name already exists on the drive, uTool will display a message that the song or playlist is already available on the drive.

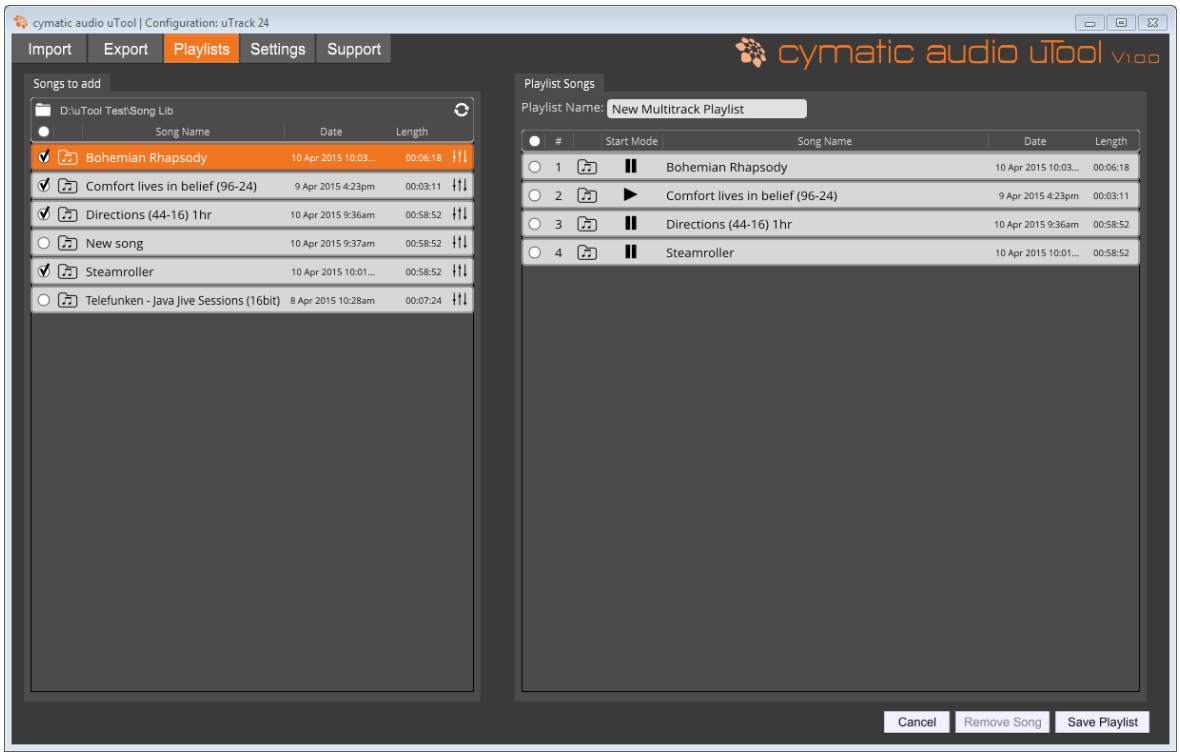
5 PLAYLISTS TAB (UTRACK24/LP-16 ONLY)

The Playlist tab offers the necessary tools to create and manage custom made audio playslists. Playlists are a pre-configured sequence of either multitrack or stereo audio files. uTool allows for flexible customization of how each audio file transitions to the next.

5.1 Creating a Playlist

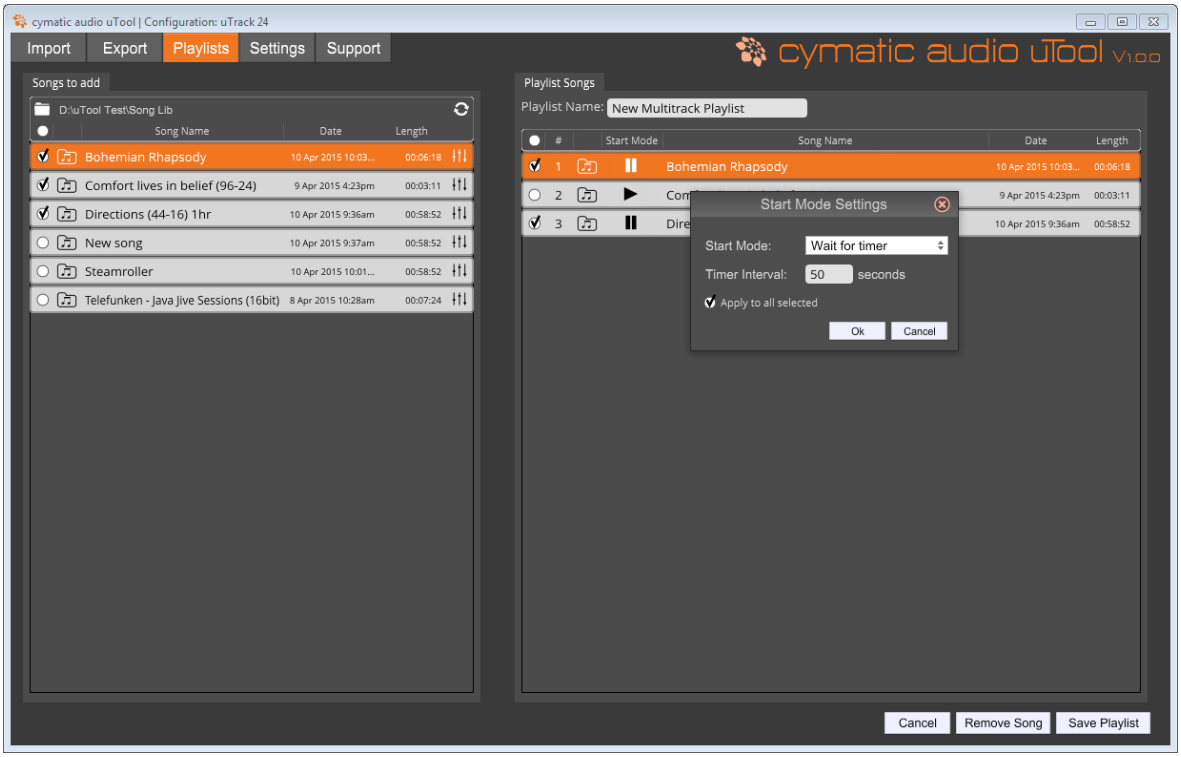
Steps to create a new playlist are as follows:

- Click on the Multitrack Playlist or Stereo Playlist tab depending on which kind of playlist you want to create.
- Click on the “Add New Playlist” button to start creating a new playlist. The left column will then show song projects, present in uTool.
- On the right panel, the “Playlist Name” can be changed
- Drag the desired song projects from the left panel to the right panel.
- As you drag the songs into the panel on the right, they will fill up slots and make up the playlist you are creating. Click and drag an existing entry in the right column to move its order within the playlist.


cymatic audio uTool | Configuration: uTrack 24
Import
Export
Playlists
Settings
Support
cymatic audio uTool V1.00
Songs to add
D:\uTool Test\Song Lib
Song Name
Date
Length
Bohemian Rhapsody 10 Apr 2015 10:03... 00:06:18
Comfort lives in belief (96-24) 9 Apr 2015 4:23pm 00:03:11
Directions (44-16) 1hr 10 Apr 2015 9:36am 00:58:52
New song 10 Apr 2015 9:37am 00:58:52
Steamroller 10 Apr 2015 10:01... 00:58:52
Telefunken - Java Jive Sessions (16bit) 8 Apr 2015 10:28am 00:07:24
Playlist Songs
Playlist Name: New Multitrack Playlist
Start Mode Song Name Date Length
1 Bohemian Rhapsody 10 Apr 2015 10:03... 00:06:18
2 Comfort lives in belief (96-24) 9 Apr 2015 4:23pm 00:03:11
3 Directions (44-16) 1hr 10 Apr 2015 9:36am 00:58:52
4 Steamroller 10 Apr 2015 10:01... 00:58:52
Cancel
Remove Song
Save Playlist

- Double click on the song’s start mode icon ( ) to bring up the “start mode” popup menu for that playlist entry. The start mode determines how the song starts after the previous entry has completed playback. The options for start mode are:
  - No Delay: The playlist entry will start playing immediately when the previous entry completes playback.

- Wait for Key Press: The playlist entry will wait to start playback until you press the “Play” key on the hardware’s transport.
- Wait for Timer: The playlist entry will wait for the specified time in seconds, before starting playback. Maximum value for wait time interval is 99 seconds.



- Checkbox can be used to select the songs within a playlist. “Remove Song” button can be used to delete songs from the playlist

Other parameters like Song Name, Date and Length of the songs are shown in the right hand side panel.

5.2 Saving Playlist

When you have added all the songs you wish to, click on the “Save Playlist” button on the bottom right; The screen will return to the main playlist interface. Once the Playlists are created, they are visible in the “Export” tab and can be selected for export to an external drive.

6 SUPPORT TAB

uTool's support tab offers different tools to quickly and easily get help with your questions about the application.

1. User's Manual

Click on this link to navigate to a web page where you can download the .pdf user's manual for the uTool software. A copy of the user's manual can also be downloaded from http://www.cymaticaudio.com/downloads

2. Website

Click this box to go to Cymatic Audio's website, located at www.cymaticaudio.com

3. Support Forum

Click on this link to go to the user support forum for Cymatic Audio products, located at www.cymaticaudio.com/forum

4. Email Support

Click this button to check online if there are any driver or firmware updates available for your hardware. The downloads website is located at www.cymaticaudio.com/downloads

7 LEGAL DISCLAIMER

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Version 1.0.1
October 2015

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